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NEWS RELEASE



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Arrest Made in the Murder of Jose Velasquez; DA Reviewing Case Evidence

VENTURA, Calif. - The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is reviewing a case submitted to our office, involving the disappearance and murder of Jose Velasquez.

Today, January 13, 2023, Major Crimes Detectives with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office arrested Rotherie Foster as the suspect responsible for Velasquez's death. Prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office are evaluating the evidence and expect to make a filing decision on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

Velasquez was last seen on July 27, 2022, when he went out to dinner with friends in Thousand Oaks. He was reported missing three days later. On October 3, 2022, two hikers discovered human remains, later identified as Velasquez, in the Santa Monica Mountains. The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office later declared Velasquez's death a homicide.

Ventura County Sheriff Jim Fryhoff and District Attorney Erik Nasarenko will hold a joint news conference on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. inside the District Attorney's Office. Credentialed media can gather outside the District Attorney's Office on the third floor of the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Justice to be escorted to our media room.